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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: RAMPAL *et al.*

Examiner: LUKTON, David

Application No.: 09/973,265

Group Art Unit: 1654

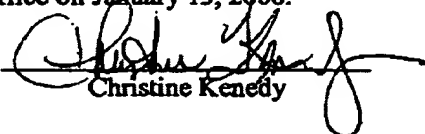
Filing Date: October 9, 2001

Title: A STABLE ORAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION CONTAINING
OMEPRazole

Free applied only

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Christine Kenedy

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims begin on Page 2.

Remarks begin on Page 7.

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Remarks

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-16, 20-27, and 30-47 are pending with claims 8, 15, 16, 18-20, and 30-47 being withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 7, 23, 24, and 27 are independent. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10-14, 16, and 23-27 have been amended and claims 4, 5, 9, 17-19, 28, and 29 have been cancelled. The amendments to the claims merely put into independent form those claims that have been objected to in the office action or correct grammatical errors. As such, no new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 21-23 and 27 have been rejected as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. 6,228,400), Bergstrand (WO 96/01623), and Henriksen (U.S. 6,391,342). Claims 1-3 have been rejected as being anticipated by Lovgren (U.S. 4,786,505). Claim 27 has been rejected as being anticipated by Ballester Rodes (U.S. 5,626,875). Claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 21-23, and 27 have been rejected as being obvious over Chen (U.S. 6,096,340). By placing the objected-to claims in independent form, including the base claim and intervening dependent claims, the amendments to the claims are believed to address these rejections.

Applicants petition for a three month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated July 15, 2005. Authorization is given to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 50-0912 as necessary for the extension of time and for the newly independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 13, 2006

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